

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 85

Supporting the efforts of the people of Indonesia in achieving a transition to genuine democracy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 1999

Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. REED, Mr. HELMS, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. COVERDELL, and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Supporting the efforts of the people of Indonesia in achieving a transition to genuine democracy, and for other purposes.

Whereas Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country, has the world's largest Muslim population, and has developed friendly relations with the United States;

Whereas a stable and democratic Indonesia is important to overall security in Southeast Asia;

Whereas President Suharto resigned on May 21, 1998, in accordance with Indonesia's constitutional processes;

Whereas incidents of ethnic and religious violence have become more prevalent in the months following President Suharto's resignation and threaten to undermine Indonesia's delicate political balance;

Whereas President Habibie has indicated his willingness to consider granting independence to East Timor, if the people of East Timor reject a plan for greater autonomy within Indonesia;

Whereas Indonesia is pursuing a transition to genuine democracy, establishing a new governmental structure, and developing a new political order;

Whereas President Habibie signed several bills governing elections, political parties, and the structure of legislative bodies into law on February 1, 1999; and

Whereas free, fair, and transparent elections to the House of Representatives of Indonesia (DPR), now scheduled for June 7, 1999, will help the people of Indonesia continue their democratic transition: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the Indonesian people in their ef-
3 forts to carry out the provisions of the new election
4 laws and hold democratic elections as scheduled;

5 (2) calls upon the Government of Indonesia to
6 take all steps necessary to ensure that the elections
7 scheduled for June 7, 1999, are free, fair, and
8 transparent;

9 (3) urges all political, military, and ethnic lead-
10 ers to refrain from all violence and work toward a
11 peaceful political campaign period;

12 (4) calls upon all Indonesian leaders, political
13 party members, military personnel, and the general

1 public to respect and uphold the results of all elec-
2 tions held in a free and fair manner;

3 (5) urges all candidates for political office to
4 address the ethnic and religious tensions in Indo-
5 nesia that have surfaced since President Suharto's
6 resignation and incorporate possible solutions into
7 their election platforms; and

8 (6) calls upon the Government of Indonesia and
9 all prospective officeholders to work with the people
10 of East Timor to achieve an equitable and realistic
11 solution to the question of East Timor's future polit-
12 ical status.

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